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OFFICE OF THE KANSAS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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NEWS RELEASE

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Fatality Fire in Topeka, Kansas

At approximately 1:33 PM on Friday, February 3, 2006 a fire was discovered at an occupied residence of 6754 SW Aylsbury, Topeka, Kansas. The Mission Township Fire Department responded and received information that one person was believed to still be inside. This person was located, and transported to a local Topeka hospital. The Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office was contacted to investigate the fire.

One person died in the fire. Marylyn E. Schodde, 71years old of Topeka, Kansas.

Investigators from the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office have completed their investigation of this fire at this time. This fire originated in the basement area of this house, in the area of where a television entertainment center was located. The components that were in this entertainment center could not be ruled out, along with the possibility of a candle in this area of origin. The exact cause of this fire is being classified as undetermined, but is believed to be accidental.

Several agencies are involved in the investigation and they include the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office, the Shawnee County Sheriffs Office, the Mission Township Fire Department, the Auburn Fire Department, the Shawnee Heights Fire Department, the Dover Fire Department, and the Topeka Fire Department.